

UNCLASSIFIED

8/11/79 WHIT
File SOC 141

IMMEDIATE ACTION

AZ091

NNNNVV ESA 862ASA 875
OO RUESBA
DE RUEBAS 3704 2231535
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
O R 111530Z AUG 79
FM AMEMBASSY ASUNCION
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6828
INFO RUESSA/AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES IMMEDIATE
RUESDO/AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO 1695
BT

DECONTROL

ASUNCION 3704

ACT	INF	ACT	INF
AME		AME	
DCR		DCR	
PA		PA	
SEC		SEC	
STATE		STATE	
DEF		DEF	
CON		CON	
ICA		ICA	
LA-RO		LA-RO	
SCI		SCI	
DAO		DAO	
MLGP		MLGP	
		CHRON	
		RF	

E.O. 12065: N/A
TAGS: SHUN, PA
SUBJECT: ALLEGED TORTURE OF ARGENTINE CITIZENS IN PARAGUAY

1. INTER-FAITH CHURCH COMMITTEE (PROTECT SOURCE) HAS RECEIVED WHAT APPEAR TO BE RELIABLE REPORTS EMANATING FROM POLICE CIRCLES THAT MEMBERS OF THE ARGENTINE SECURITY FORCES ARE BRUTALLY TORTURING SIGNIFICANT NUMBERS OF ARGENTINE REFUGEES IN PARAGUAY. THE PARAGUAYAN INVESTIGATIONS POLICE HAVE PICKED UP AT LEAST 13 ARGENTINE CITIZENS SINCE AUGUST 4. ACCORDING TO THE REPORT, THE INVESTIGATIONS POLICE HAVE TURNED THESE PEOPLE OVER TO ARGENTINE "TORTURERS" WHO ARE QUESTIONING THESE ALLEGED MONTONEROS. THE REFUGEES ARE ALSO SAID TO BE PART OF AN ILLEGAL RING WHICH HAS BEEN OBTAINING DOCUMENTATION FOR ARGENTINE EXILES WHO WISH TO RETURN TO ARGENTINA. PARAGUAYAN POLICE SOURCES ARE REPORTEDLY APPALLED AT THE EXTREME BRUTALITY USED BY THEIR ARGENTINE COHORTS AND FEAR THEY WILL KILL THE PRISONERS, RETURN TO ARGENTINA AND LEAVE THE PARAGUAYAN POLICE TO TAKE THE BRUNT OF ANY COMPLAINTS WHICH MAY ARISE FROM THE PRISONERS' DEATH OR TORTURE.

2. AMONG THOSE DETAINED ARE:
ENRIQUE OSVALDO LANDI, 27, ARGENTINE; HIS WIFE, OFELIA BADIE DE LANDI, 25; THEIR SON, ENRIQUE O. LANDI, 3 YEARS OLD; JUAN CARLOS SILVA, 24; AND HIS FATHER, RAMON SILVA, 49. SIX ARGENTINE EMPLOYEES OF A SMALL ASUNCION TEXTILE MILL, CASA MARTEL, HAVE ALSO BEEN ARRESTED. IN ADDITION, THE POLICE DRAGGED AN ARGENTINE MAN AND HIS URUGUAYAN WIFE FROM A HOUSE NEAR THAT OF PARAGUAYAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION CHAIRMAN CARMEN DE LARA CASTRO ON AUGUST 7.

3. THE CHURCH COMMITTEE HAS ALSO RECEIVED REPORTS THAT URUGUAYAN SECURITY FORCES ARE TORTURING URUGUAYAN CITIZENS IN THE INVESTIGATIONS POLICE HEADQUARTERS. HOWEVER, THESE REPORTS ARE LESS SUBSTANTIATED AND MAY NOT BE ACCURATE.

4. COMMENT: SOME OF OUR SOURCES SPECULATE THAT THE POLICE ACTION IS BEING TAKEN IN CONNECTION WITH ARGENTINE ARMY CHIEF GENERAL VIOLA'S AUGUST 15 VISIT TO PARAGUAY. HOWEVER, WE OR THE CHURCH COMMITTEE HAVE RECEIVED NO REPORT THAT WOULD CONFIRM THIS SPECULATION. EMBASSY PLANS TO RAISE THESE REPORTS WITH GOP OFFICIALS IN EFFORT TO CLARIFY SITUATION.

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